

1997-98 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Joint Committee on
Finance (JC-Fi)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi_Misc_pt130e_LFB

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

To: Joint Committee on Finance

From: Bob Lang, Director
Legislative Fiscal Bureau

ISSUE

Release of Information Regarding Food Stamp Recipients (Workforce Development -- Economic Support and Child Care)

[LFB Summary: Page 703, #28d]

CURRENT LAW

The 1996 federal welfare reform legislation (P.L. 104-193) requires that a state agency release the address, social security number and, if available, photograph of any member of a household receiving food stamp benefits to a law enforcement officer if the officer furnishes the agency with the name of the member and notifies the agency that: (a) the member is a fugitive felon, is violating a condition of probation or parole or has related information necessary for the officer to conduct an official duty; (b) locating or apprehending the member is an official duty; and (c) the request is being made in the proper exercise of an official duty.

GOVERNOR

Authorize county departments and Wisconsin Works (W-2) agencies to release the current address of food stamp recipients to a law enforcement officer if the officer provides, in writing, the name of the recipient and the officer satisfactorily demonstrates, in writing, that the recipient is a fugitive felon, is violating a condition of probation, parole or community supervision imposed under state or federal law or has information that is necessary for the officer to conduct official duties.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Under federal law, only state agencies, their counterpart local agencies or tribal organizations may administer the food stamp program. Therefore, W-2 agencies that are not county departments or tribal organizations are not considered state agencies and may not administer food stamps. The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has requested a waiver from the federal government to allow all W-2 agencies to certify eligibility for and issue food coupons certain food stamp recipients. To date, this waiver request has not been approved. A technical modification could clarify that the release of information to law enforcement officers may be required of W-2 agencies only if the agency is administering food stamps.

2. The Governor's recommendation differs from the federal provisions regarding the release of information about food stamp recipients in several other respects:

- Federal law specifically requires that the agency release the address, social security number and, if available, photograph of a food stamp recipient. The Governor's proposal would authorize, but not require, only the release of the address. Release of the social security number and photograph would not be authorized.
- Under the Governor's recommendation, law enforcement officers would have to provide in writing the name of the recipient and the reason for the release of the information. However, federal law does not require written notification.
- Federal law specifies that the information must be released if locating or apprehending the member is an official duty and the request is being made in the proper exercise of an official duty. The Governor's recommendation does not include these specific provisions.

3. The Committee could modify the Governor's recommendation to more closely correspond to federal law. However, the provision of federal law requiring the agency to provide a photograph of food stamp recipients could be excluded from state law because, under a federal waiver, food stamp agencies in Wisconsin are not required to obtain a photograph of food stamp recipients. Incorporating the federal language with regard to the release of a photograph could lead to an expectation on the part of law enforcement officers that the counties and W-2 agencies have obtained photographs of recipients.

4. Most provisions regarding the food stamp program are enumerated under federal law, rather than in the state statutes. Another option the Committee could consider would be to delete the Governor's recommendation. Under this alternative, counties and W-2 agencies would be required to comply with the federal provisions outlined above. An advantage to this approach is that, if federal law is subsequently changed, state law would not need modification.

ALTERNATIVES TO BILL ^{BASE}

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to authorize county departments and W-2 agencies to release the current address of food stamp recipients to law enforcement officers.
2. Approve the Governor's recommendation with one or more of the following modifications that correspond to federal law:
 - a. Require that counties and W-2 agencies, if administering food stamps, release the address and social security number of any member of a household receiving food stamp benefits.
 - b. Eliminate the provision that the law enforcement officer provide in writing the name of the participant and the reason for obtaining information about the participant.
 - c. Specify that information about a member of a household receiving food stamp benefits be released under the conditions that: (a) the member is a fugitive felon, is violating a condition of probation or parole or has related information necessary for the officer to conduct an official duty; (b) locating or apprehending the member is an official duty; and (c) the request is being made in the proper exercise of an official duty.
3. Delete the Governor's recommendation. Under this option, state law would contain no provisions relating to the release of information about food stamp recipients, and food stamp agencies would be required to comply with the federal provisions.

Prepared by: Joanne Simpson

MO# 417#1

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

AYE 13 NO 3 ABS

To: Joint Committee on Finance

From: Bob Lang, Director
Legislative Fiscal Bureau

ISSUE

Food Stamp Waiver (Workforce Development -- Economic Support and Child Care)

CURRENT LAW

No provision.

GOVERNOR

No provision.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The 1996 federal welfare reform legislation (P.L. 104-193) established a work requirement for childless, able-bodied adults under the food stamp program. However, states may request exemptions from this provision in areas of the state with unemployment greater than 10% or with an insufficient number of jobs. Federal guidelines indicate that evidence to support a waiver request based on either of these criteria can be presented in several ways. States have flexibility in identifying geographic areas to which the criteria apply, and may identify geographic areas within a county or city. Furthermore, states may use a variety of data to support the exemption request, such as labor surplus area classifications or increased filing of unemployment insurance claims. The federal legislation and guidelines for requesting an exemption are described in the Appendix.

2. Several states throughout the U.S. have submitted requests for waivers from the federal requirements for able-bodied adults. A number of legislators have expressed interest in

having the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) request these exemptions for Wisconsin residents.

3. It is estimated that approximately 6,850 adult food stamp recipients in Wisconsin would be subject to the new federal work requirements. A number of data sources indicate that some areas of Wisconsin may qualify for an exemption.

As of January, 1997, the following counties in Wisconsin were designated as eligible labor surplus areas: Ashland, Bayfield, Clark, Door, Forest, Iron, Marquette, Menominee, Rusk and Washburn. In addition, the City of Racine was designated as a labor surplus area.

Based on BLS data, Florence and Rusk counties, and some portions of Douglas county had unemployment rates in excess of 10% for the three-month period from January to March, 1997.

5. The Department has indicated that it has reviewed specific unemployment rates by zip code, in particular for certain areas within the City of Milwaukee and for rural areas of Wisconsin. Using this methodology, the Department has estimated that some areas within the state do have unemployment rates greater than 10%. However, the Department does not intend to seek waivers from the food stamp requirements for the following reasons.

- The population subject to the federal requirements consists of childless adults. Under W-2, the state is requiring single parents with children to work. Childless adults may be considered more mobile than those with children, and may be able to locate in an area where jobs are available. Because the state is requiring those with children to work, those without children should not be exempt from complying with a work requirement.

- A person would be in compliance with federal law if they participate in work experience programs for 20 hours per week. This can be a combination of job search and work or work training. The Department believes there is currently ample opportunity for individuals to participate in these types of programs.

6. Food stamp benefits are fully funded with federal dollars. Therefore, an exemption from the work requirement would have no effect on Wisconsin's state budget.

ALTERNATIVES TO BILL

1. Adopt statutory provisions requiring DWD to seek waivers from the food stamp employment requirements for able-bodied childless adults for those areas of the state (including geographic areas within the City of Milwaukee and other municipalities) that have unemployment greater than 10%, that have been designated as labor surplus areas by the federal government or otherwise have an insufficient number of jobs. Also, direct the Department to seek studies that

would indicate that there is an insufficient number of jobs in portions of the state, and submit requests to exempt individuals in those areas from the work participation requirement.

2. ^{FAIR} Direct DWD to seek waivers from the work requirements for able-bodied adult food stamp recipients as described in Alternative 1. This option would express the Committee's intent that the Department request exemptions from the federal provisions, but would not create a statutory requirement.

3. ^{Default} Maintain current law.

Prepared by: Joanne Simpson

MO# Alt #1

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

1 BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
2 GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

AYE 8 NO 8 ABS

MO# Alt #2

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
1 GEORGE	Y	N	A
2 JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

AYE 7 NO 9 ABS

APPENDIX

Summary of Federal Guidelines for Seeking Waivers for Food Stamp Limits

Under the federal welfare reform legislation, no individual is eligible to participate in the food stamp program if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for at least three months during which the individual did not: (a) work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; (b) participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week, as determined by the state agency which administers food stamps; or (c) participate in and comply with the requirements of a workfare program established by a state or political subdivision.

"Work program" means: (a) a program under the Job Training and Partnership Act or the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act; or (b) an employment and training program (not including job search activities) operated or supervised by a state or political subdivision that meets standards approved by the Governor, including the food stamp employment and training program.

Subsequent Eligibility

An individual denied eligibility under these provisions may regain eligibility if, during a 30-day period, the individual: (a) works 80 or more hours; (b) participates in and complies with the requirements of a work program for 80 or more hours, as determined by the state agency; or (c) participates in and complies with the requirements of a workfare program established by a state or political subdivision.

An individual who regains eligibility remains eligible as long as he or she satisfies the work requirement. If the individual subsequently fails to comply with the work requirement, he or she may remain eligible for a consecutive three-month period, but only on one occasion in any 36-month period.

Exemptions

Individuals are exempt from the work requirement if they are: (a) under 18 or over 50 years of age; (b) medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment; (c) parents or other household members with responsibility for a dependent child; (d) pregnant; or (e) otherwise exempt from any food stamp work registration requirement, which includes individuals responsible for the care of an incapacitated person, enrolled in postsecondary education and meeting similar work requirements, participating in a drug or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program, or complying with unemployment compensation requirements. Individuals who are not exempt from the work requirements are considered "able-bodied".

Waivers

In addition to the above exemptions, at the request of the state agency that administers food stamps [the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) in Wisconsin], the Secretary of the U.S. Department Agriculture (USDA) may waive the work requirements for any group of individuals in the state if the Secretary determines that the area in which the individuals reside: (a) has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent; or (b) does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals. Such waiver requests must be submitted by the state agency responsible for administering food stamps; USDA indicates that it will not approve waiver requests submitted by other government agencies or political subdivisions.

Although the federal legislation does not provide a definition for "the area in which the individuals reside", the USDA has issued guidelines to states on the definition of an area, the duration of the waiver, and documentation and data needed to support the two types of waiver requests. The following sections are based on the USDA guidelines.

Defining an Area. USDA indicates that it will give states broad discretion in defining areas that best reflect the labor market prospects of program participants and state administrative needs. In general, states should submit waiver requests for geographic areas smaller than the entire state. States are allowed to request waivers for combinations of counties, cities and towns, or for smaller geographic areas within a county, city or town. States should also consider the needs of rural areas and Indian reservations.

In addition, a state may submit a waiver request that covers specific categories of individuals for whom there are insufficient jobs in an area. The USDA guidelines indicate that waiver requests will be considered for insufficient jobs for a group of individuals that have been displaced due to the loss or decline of a dominant industry.

Duration of Waivers. In general, it is USDA's intent to grant waivers for a maximum of one year. If the condition upon which the initial waiver was approved persists, the waivers may be renewed. In some circumstances, or at the state's request, waivers may be granted for less than one year.

Waivers for Unemployment Rates Above 10 Percent. USDA will allow states to self-certify areas that have an unemployment rate higher than 10 percent. Guidelines from USDA indicate that state welfare agencies should work with state employment security agencies to make this determination. States must inform their USDA Food and Consumer Regional Office and Headquarters of each area that meets this criterion and certify that the determination was based on standard Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data or methods. States may update these certifications as frequently as necessary. The waiver period will begin as soon as a state certifies that an area's unemployment rate is above 10 percent. USDA will contact states if additional clarification on the waiver is needed.

USDA will automatically grant a waiver for any area in which the average unemployment rate in the preceding 12 months is greater than 10 percent. However, a state may opt to use a shorter moving average. A moving average of at least three months is preferred.

In areas with predictable seasonal variations in unemployment, states may use historical trends to demonstrate seasonality and obtain waivers for periods shorter than one year. The period of the waiver will coincide with the period of high unemployment. However, a state also may use historical unemployment trends to show that a rise in unemployment is not part of a predictable seasonal pattern in order to support a waiver request of up to one year.

Waivers for Areas Without Sufficient Jobs. Waivers granted under this category may not be implemented until they are approved by USDA. As indicated below, a number of criteria may be used to demonstrate insufficient jobs. USDA's decision will be based on the current unemployment rate for the area, the type of waiver requested and sufficient evidence to support granting of the waiver. The USDA guidelines include the following examples of data that may be used to support a claim of insufficient jobs:

Lack of Jobs in Designated Labor Surplus Areas. Information about labor surplus areas as classified by the U.S. Department of Labor is provided in the publication, "Area Trends in Employment and Unemployment." Labor surplus areas are classified on the basis of civil jurisdictions rather than on a metropolitan area or labor market area basis. Civil jurisdictions are defined as all cities with a population of at least 25,000 and all counties. Generally, a civil jurisdiction is classified as a labor surplus area when its average unemployment rate is at least 20 percent above the average unemployment rate for all states during the previous two calendar years.

The labor surplus listing is issued for each federal fiscal year. The listing becomes effective each October 1 and remains in effect through the following September 30. The reference period used in preparing the current list was January, 1994, through December, 1995. The national average unemployment rate during this period was 5.9 percent. The qualifying unemployment rate for designation as a labor surplus area is, therefore, 7.1 percent.

Lack of Jobs in Declining Occupations or Industries. A state may submit a waiver request that covers specific categories of individuals for whom there are insufficient jobs in an area. BLS provides monthly data on state and local employment by major industry. A declining trend within a particular industry or sector may be used to document a claim of insufficient jobs under this category. Increased filing of unemployment insurance claims may also be an indicator of declining occupations or industries. Any waiver request for declining industries will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Other Criteria. Other data that will be considered by USDA in granting a waiver request based on insufficient jobs include: (a) lack of jobs in the state as shown by the state being designated eligible for extended unemployment insurance benefits by the U.S. Department of

Labor; and (b) lack of jobs due to lagging job growth as shown by a declining ratio of the number of employed persons in an area to the area's total working age population.

It should be noted that claims of insufficient jobs based upon other reliable data and methods also will be considered by USDA. For example, USDA has indicated that they have granted a waiver for Chicago that was based on a number of independent studies that showed a lack of jobs in the city.

To: Joint Committee on Finance

From: Bob Lang, Director
Legislative Fiscal Bureau

ISSUE

Minor Policy and Technical Changes -- Food Stamp and MA Administration by W-2 Agencies (Workforce Development -- Economic Support and Child Support)

GOVERNOR

Under current state law, Wisconsin Works (W-2) agencies are required to certify eligibility for and issue food stamps to, eligible W-2 participants, in conformity with federal law. In addition, the Governor's recommendation would authorize the Department of Health and Family Services to delegate responsibility for determining eligibility of persons for medical assistance (MA) to a W-2 agency.

MODIFICATION

Specify that W-2 agencies may certify eligibility for and issue food coupons to, W-2 participants and determine eligibility of persons for MA, only to the extent permitted by federal law or waiver.

Explanation: Not all W-2 agencies will be county departments. Some will be private agencies contracting with the state. However, federal law does not allow entities that are not state agencies or counterpart local agencies to administer the food stamp program or make MA eligibility determinations. Therefore, some W-2 agencies would not be authorized to perform these functions.

The Department of Workforce Development has requested a federal waiver to allow all W-2 agencies to administer the food stamp program, but to date this waiver has not been approved. No waiver has been requested to allow W-2 agencies to determine eligibility for MA.

Prepared by: Joanne Simpson

DWD -- Economic Support and Ch

Paper # 995

MO#

Modification

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

AYE 14 NO 2 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Postsecondary Education for CSJs

Motion:

Move to provide that, to the extent permitted by federal law, a participant in a community service job (CSJ) under the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program may be allowed to participate in a full-time postsecondary education program in lieu of a W-2 employment position if the W-2 agency determines that the education program is likely to lead to employment, the participant maintains full-time status and regularly attends all classes, and maintains a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or the equivalent. If an individual fails to attend class without good cause, the grant will be reduced by the same amount as if the individual failed to participate in required work activities.

Note:

Under the W-2 program, a participant in a community service job may be required to participate in work activities for up to 30 hours per week and in educational and training activities for up to 10 hours per week. Under this motion, a CSJ participant would be allowed to participate in full-time postsecondary education in place of this work requirement, to the extent permitted by federal law.

Under current law, if a CSJ participant fails to meet required work or education activities without good cause, the grant would be reduced by \$4.25 per hour. Under the Governor's recommendation, this reduction would be \$5.15 per hour. This motion would provide that if an individual fails to participate in the postsecondary education activities without good cause, the grant would be reduced by the same amount as for other CSJ participants.

Allowing a recipient to engage in postsecondary education activities may result in the recipient moving into an unsubsidized employment position more quickly. Additional education may also prevent individuals from returning to the W-2 program. These impacts would result in cost savings. However, if some individuals remain in a CSJ position longer than they otherwise would in order to complete their education, added costs would result.

MO# 3284

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
2 JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
1 SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

AYE 8 NO 8 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -- ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

Local Learnfare Projects

Motion:

Move to provide \$6,654,100 (All Funds) in 1997-98 and \$7,104,100 in 1998-99 to continue local Learnfare projects.

Note:

Under this motion, matching funds would be provided for local projects, primarily related to the Learnfare program. Matching funds had previously been paid from federal waiver savings which are no longer available under TANF provisions. The Department continued to provide a match for these projects in 1996-97, but most projects are currently scheduled to end June 30, 1997. For each project, the Department would enter into a contract with a local government to provide services.

Base funding for these projects is \$450,000. This motion would allow these projects to continue through the biennium, and would provide an additional \$6,654,100 in 1997-98 and \$7,104,100 in 1998-99.

[Change to Base: \$13,758,200 All Funds]

[Change to Bill: \$11,508,200 All Funds]

MO# 5019

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
2 DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
1 SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

Motion #5019

AYE 5 NO 11 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT - ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

State Funding for Tribal TANF Programs

Motion:

Move to direct the Department to develop a plan for the granting of a share of state funds to any Wisconsin Indian tribe that operates a federal TANF program. Specify that the Department would be required to develop a plan, that includes standards similar to W-2, in consultation with Wisconsin Indian tribes and submit the plan to the Joint Committee on Finance by January 1, 1998. Provide that the Department could not implement the plan without approval by the Committee.

Note:

Under the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, tribes may operate TANF programs separate from the state programs funded with the TANF block grant. For a tribe that submits an acceptable plan, the federal government will provide to the tribe an amount equal to expenditures by the state for federal fiscal year 1994 for families residing in the tribe, and the state's TANF block grant will be reduced by an equivalent amount.

The Department has indicated that an estimated four tribes in 1997-98 and five tribes in 1998-99 are expected to operate separate programs in Wisconsin as permitted under federal law. Therefore, base funding for the W-2 program from the TANF block grant funding has been reduced by \$590,200 in 1997-98 and \$1,224,500 in 1998-99 to reflect the separate tribal plans.

Under this motion, the Department would be required to develop a plan to provide a share of state funds to any Wisconsin Indian tribe that operates a separate TANF program. The plan would be developed in consultation with the Wisconsin Indian tribes and would include standards similar to W-2. The Department must submit the plan to the Joint Finance Committee by January 1, 1998, and may not implement the plan without Committee approval.

MO# 6052

JENSEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
OURADA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
HARSDORF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
ALBERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
GARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
KAUFERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
LINTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
COGGS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A

BURKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
DECKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
2 GEORGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
1 JAUCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
WINEKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
SHIBILSKI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
COWLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
PANZER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A

AYE 16 NO 0 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -- ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

Minority Business Development and Training Program

Motion:

Move to transfer authority to administer the minority business development and training program under s. 66.905 of the statutes from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District to the Department of ~~Workforce Development~~

Commerce

Note:

The minority business development and training program is administered by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and provides training to minority individuals and contractors that participate in district construction projects.

as amended

MO# 5101

JENSEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
OURADA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
HARSDORF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
ALBERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
GARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
KAUFERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
LINTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
2 COGGS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A

BURKE	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	A	<i>Recuse</i>
DECKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A	
GEORGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A	
JAUCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A	
WINEKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A	
SHIBILSKI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A	
COWLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A	
PANZER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A	

AYE 13 NO 2 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -- ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

Food Stamp Benefits for Immigrants and Refugees

Motion:

Move to provide \$3,800,000 in 1997-98 and \$4,100,000 in 1998-99 and require DWD to implement a state food assistance program for legal immigrants and refugees ("qualified aliens" under federal law) who meet the eligibility requirements for the federal food stamp program, except for their status as immigrants or refugees.

Note:

Under the 1996 federal welfare reform legislation, refugees are eligible for food stamp benefits from the date of entry to the U.S. After five years, these individuals are ineligible to receive food stamp benefits until they obtain citizenship or until they accrue 40 qualifying quarters of work. In addition, current legal aliens are ineligible for food stamp benefits until citizenship. Other legal aliens currently residing in the U.S. who are not currently receiving benefits are barred from eligibility for food stamp benefits until they obtain citizenship.

Under this motion, legal immigrants and refugees in Wisconsin who were, or would have been, eligible for federal food stamp benefits except for their immigrant status would receive a payment from the state in an amount equal to what the household would have received under the federal program. It is estimated that this program would cost \$3,800,000 in 1997-98 and \$4,100,000 in 1998-99.

[Change to Base: \$7,900,000 All Funds]

[Change to Bill: \$7,900,000 All Funds]

MO# 5022

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

Motion #5022

AYE 8 NO 8 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -- ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

TANF Funding Reserve

Motion:

Move to provide \$14.0 million in TANF funds to be placed in the Committee's program supplements appropriation in 1997-98 for use either for: (a) supplemental payments to children of SSI recipients; or (b) Learning Labs and customized labor training programs. Specify that priority use of the funds would be for supplemental payments to children of SSI recipients if the federal government does not authorize the use of GPR funds under the SSI program to make these payments. Authorize the Committee to release these funds under a 14-day passive review process following a joint request by DHFS and DWD.

[Change to Base: \$14,000,000 FED]

[Change to Bill: \$14,000,000 FED]

MO# 5200

JENSEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
OURADA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
HARSDORF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
ALBERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
GARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
KAUFERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
LINTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
COGGS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A

BURKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
DECKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
GEORGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
JAUCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
WINEKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
SHIBILSKI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
2 COWLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A
PANZER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N	A

AYE 15 NO 1 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -- ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

Postsecondary Education for CSJs

Motion:

Move to provide that to the extent permitted by federal law, the work activities for participants in community service jobs (CSJs) under the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program may include participation in postsecondary education. Provide that the individual may participate in postsecondary educational activities for up to 20 hours per week assigned as part of an employability plan developed by the W-2 agency if the individual participates in work activities for a minimum of 20 hours per week, which may include work-related training required as part of an educational course. The maximum participation in combined work and education as part of the CSJ employment position would be 40 hours per week. The individual would be allowed to continue participating in postsecondary education as long as she or he was making satisfactory progress in educational activities. Postsecondary education would be limited to two years for any individual. In addition, add postsecondary education to the allowable activities for which an individual may receive an additional child care subsidy. Postsecondary education would include courses at an institution within the University of Wisconsin System, an institution within the Wisconsin Technical College System, a private, nonprofit institution of higher education located in the state, or a school approved by the Educational Approval Board.

Note:

Under current law, a W-2 agency may require participants in CSJs to participate in work activities for up to 30 hours per week and in educational and training activities for up to 10 hours per week. Under this motion, a CSJ participant who is working at least 20 hours per week may be allowed to participate in postsecondary educational activities for up to 20 hours per week, for a combined total of work and education activities of up to 40 hours per week. In addition, this motion would provide that work-related training required as part of an educational course may be an allowable work activity for CSJ participants.

Under current law, participants in W-2 employment positions and unsubsidized employment will be eligible to receive subsidized child care services for up to 40 hours per week while they are engaged in the activities under their W-2 employment position, including educational and training activities. Participants may also receive additional subsidized child care services for up to one year for participation in other employment skills training including English as a second

language course, a course of study to obtain a GED, or other vocational or educational courses. Under this motion, postsecondary educational activities would be added to the allowable training activities for which an individual may receive this additional child care assistance.

Allowing a recipient to engage in postsecondary education activities may result in the recipient moving into an unsubsidized employment position more quickly. Additional education may also prevent individuals from returning to the W-2 program. These impacts would result in cost savings. However, if some individuals remain in a CSJ position longer than they otherwise would in order to complete their education, added costs would result.

It is estimated that CSJ participants would continue to need child care services for participation in work and education for up to 40 hours per week, as under current law. However, under this motion, the additional child care subsidy described above would be expanded to include educational activities not allowed under current law. It is estimated that this change could cost \$1,500,000 in each year.

[Change to Base: \$3,000,000]

[Change to Bill: \$3,000,000]

MO# 3285

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

AYE 8 NO 8 ABS _____

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT -- ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

Pilot Program for Child Care Ombudsman Services

Motion:

Move to provide \$228,800 GPR in 1997-98 and \$234,800 GPR in 1998-99 to the Department of Workforce Development for a pilot program in Milwaukee County that would contract for ombudsmen services for consumers of licensed and certified child care services. Specify that DWD would contract with a non-profit child care organization in Milwaukee County to provide these services and require the contract to require the organization to employ at least five full-time ombudsmen so that each area covered by a separate W-2 agency would have available a full-time ombudsmen for child care recipients in that area. In addition, specify that ombudsmen services would include: (a) investigating complaints from any person concerning improper conditions or treatment of children who receive day care services or concerning noncompliance with or improper administration of state statutes or rules related to child care; and (b) serving as mediator or advocate to resolve any problem or dispute relating to day care for children.

Authorize, but not require, that the W-2 agencies provide office space in the facility that processes applications for W-2 child care so that the ombudsman can more easily furnish services to recipients of subsidized child care. Further, require all licensed day care center providers in the pilot area to post in a conspicuous location of the day care facility a notice, provided by the agency providing the ombudsmen services, of the name, address and telephone number of the child care ombudsman program. Require all licensed family day care providers and certified family day care providers in the pilot area to provide to all clients annually and to new clients a facsimile copy that is 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches, of a notice provided by the agency providing the ombudsmen services, of the name, address and telephone number of the child care ombudsman program.

Note:

Currently, the Department of Health and Family Services is authorized 60.0 positions for the regulation of 2,305 state licensed group day care centers, 2,659 licensed family day care providers, 41 child caring institutions, 133 group foster home, 28 sheltered care facilities and 60 child placing agencies. This is a total of 5,226 child care facilities. Currently, the state does not

provide any ombudsmen services for child care services. In addition, there are approximately 4,400 certified family child care providers which are regulated by the counties.

This motion would establish a pilot ombudsmen program for child care in Milwaukee County by providing \$228,800 GPR in 1997-98 and \$234,800 GPR in 1998-99 to the Department of Workforce Development to contract for ombudsmen services from a nonprofit agency in Milwaukee County. This motion would specify that at least five full-time ombudsmen be provided to investigate complaints and resolve disputes. Licensed group day care centers would be required to post a notice of the ombudsmen program while licensed and certified family day care providers would have to provide a copy of a notice of the ombudsman program to clients annually and to new clients.

[Change to Base: \$463,600 GPR]

[Change to Bill: 463,600 GPR]

MO# 7021

JENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS			

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER			

AYE 8 NO 8 ABS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Support and Child Care

LFB Summary Items for Which No Issue Papers Have Been Prepared

NOTE
OVER
→

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Title</u>
8	Learnfare Under W-2
9	Expand Eligibility for Child Care to 200% of Federal Poverty Level
10	Expand W-2 Child Care for Minor Parents, Foster Parents and Job Search
11	Child Care Appropriations; Sunset Date of Low-Income Child Care; Joint Finance Committee Passive Review
12	Funding for Nondirect Child Care Services
13	Distribution of W-2 Child Care Funds
14	Responsibility for Child Care Certification Standards and Reimbursement Rates
15	Transfer of Tribal Child Care
18	Fugitive Felons and Misrepresentation of Identity or Place of Residence
20	Periodic Earnings Check
21	Emergency Assistance
23	MA Eligibility Unit
25a-c	Food Stamp Program Changes
27	Food Stamp Offenses
28a-c&e	Release of Information Regarding Public Assistance Recipients
30	Convert Classified Positions to Project Positions

LFB Summary Items for Introduction as Separate Legislation

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Title</u>
19	Electronic Funds Transfer
22	Determination of Eligibility for MA
25(d)&(e)	Food Stamp Program Changes
26	Food Stamp Program Administration
29	Recovery of Overpayments

MO# Items

WENSEN	Y	N	A
OURADA	Y	N	A
HARSDORF	Y	N	A
ALBERS	Y	N	A
GARD	Y	N	A
KAUFERT	Y	N	A
LINTON	Y	N	A
COGGS	Y	N	A

BURKE	Y	N	A
DECKER	Y	N	A
GEORGE	Y	N	A
JAUCH	Y	N	A
WINEKE	Y	N	A
SHIBILSKI	Y	N	A
COWLES	Y	N	A
PANZER	Y	N	A

AYE 14 NO 2 ABS _____